

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 4-8 and 14; cancel claims 2, 9, 19 and 21; and add new claims 22-24 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A cell culture matrix composition, comprising:
a tissue powder derived from a full and intact whole organ, a full and intact whole tissue, a portion of a full and intact whole organ or a portion of a full and intact whole tissue,
wherein the organ is a liver, a lung, a kidney, a pancreas, a spleen, a testis, an intestinal wall, an adrenal gland, a thyroid gland, a parathyroid gland, an ovary or a brain, and the tissue is skin, muscle, a blood vessel wall or bone marrow.

Claim 2 (Canceled).

3. (Original) The composition of claim 1, further comprising a medium.
4. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a tissue powder, comprising:
isolating a biological material selected from the group consisting of a full and intact whole organ, a full and intact whole tissue, a portion of a full and intact whole organ and a portion of a full and intact whole tissue; and
converting the biological material into the tissue powder,
wherein the biological material is a liver, a lung, a kidney, a pancreas, a spleen, a testis, an intestinal wall, an adrenal gland, a thyroid gland, a parathyroid gland, an ovary, a brain, skin, muscle, a blood vessel wall or bone marrow.
5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4, wherein said converting the biological material further includes grinding the biological material ~~with a mortar and pestle~~ to produce the tissue powder ~~ground particles~~.
6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5, ~~wherein converting the biological material further includes~~ further including sonicating the tissue powder ~~ground particles~~ to

produce a quantity of finer particles ~~the tissue powder~~.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6, wherein said sonicating the tissue powder ~~ground particles~~ is performed with a sonic dismembrator.
8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6, wherein, prior to sonicating the tissue powder ~~ground particles~~, the method further includes soaking the tissue powder in a medium.

Claim 9 (Canceled).

10. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein isolating a biological material further includes employing a perfusion technique.
11. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein after isolating the biological material, the method further includes freezing the biological material.
12. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein, after isolating the biological material, the method further includes drying the biological material in a low-pressure tank.
13. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein, after isolating the biological material but prior to freezing the biological material, the method further includes reducing the biological material into smaller pieces.
14. (Currently Amended) A method of ~~supporting cell growth~~, comprising:
 - providing cells; and
 - suspending the cells in a medium with a tissue powder derived from a biological material selected from the group consisting of a full and intact whole organ, a full and intact whole tissue, a portion of a full and intact whole organ and a portion of a full and intact whole tissue,
 - wherein the biological material is a liver, a lung, a kidney, a pancreas, a spleen, a

testis, an intestinal wall, an adrenal gland, a thyroid gland, a parathyroid gland, an ovary, a brain, skin, muscle, a blood vessel wall or bone marrow.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein providing cells further includes harvesting the cells from a mammal.
16. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the cells are of the same type as those which at least partially constitute the biological material.
17. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein providing the cells further includes employing a perfusion technique.
18. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the method further includes periodically replacing the medium.

Claim 19 (Canceled).

20. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the cells are hepatocytes, lung cells, kidney cells, enterocytes, pancreatic islet cells, splenocytes, or neural cells.

Claim 21 (Canceled).

22. (New) The method of claim 14, wherein the cells are of a different type than those which at least partially constitute the biological material.
23. (New) A cell culture matrix composition, comprising:
a fine tissue powder derived from a full and intact whole organ, a full and intact whole tissue, a portion of a full and intact whole organ or a portion of a full and intact whole tissue,
wherein the fine tissue powder is produced by the process of grinding the full and intact whole organ, the full and intact whole tissue, the portion of a full and intact whole

organ or the portion of a full and intact whole tissue to produce a ground tissue powder, and sonicating the ground tissue powder to produce the fine tissue powder.

24. (New) A cell culture matrix composition, comprising:
- a tissue powder derived from a full and intact whole liver or a portion of a full and intact whole liver; and
 - a medium.